

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OTHER TRAINING ENRICHMENTS

1850

Eliza M. Yates, the wife of the Baptist State Convention's very first missionary, sent a letter dated Jan. 26, 1850, to Sister Dowd, a relative or wife of P. W. Dowd, appealing to her to ask the Pittsboro Baptist Sabbath School children to help raise funds to support the mission school in China. At the time, the school had 17 students and operated at a cost of \$8 per month. It is unknown if the children answered the request.

(See Appendix C : Article 1)

1943

The Deacons recommended that 40 copies of the "Charity and Children" be supplied to the Sunday School for the year 1944.

1952

Sunday School had an average attendance of 169. Total church membership was 307.

1958

Demonstration Sunday - December 21st, the opportunity to demonstrate what we as a church can do when every member is present for Sunday School, Training Union and both worship services, as well as when every member tithes his weekly income. Goal set \$600.

1959

Training Union begun. "The aim of the Baptist Training Union is to work closely with the pastor, Sunday School, and other church bodies to train church members in fuller and more effective Christian Service." Baptist Training Union begun (BTU): Motto – "Train up a church member in the way he should go and he will not depart from the church." BTU was adult, young couple, intermediate, Junior, and Primary. Adults disbanded in 1963 because of low attendance. Harvey Brown and Wilson Braxton wrote articles about the importance of Baptist Training Union for every member of the church.

Sunday School hit record high attendance of 237.

In a July Spiral article, the pastor expressed deep concern regarding low attendance at Sunday School, less than 50%, along with the reasons for not attending, stating, "There is a definite need for personal rededication and renewed interest in contacting those who are absent."

Friday evening August 7th - the annual Sunday School picnic was held.

By December, two classes, The Myrtle Brewer Class and the Victor Johnson Class, reported new attendance records and attributed the high attendance in their classes to a plan recently put in effect. The classes divided its members into four groups, each group headed by a captain. Each captain was responsible for contacting those in their groups.

1960

All records were smashed and new ones set Sunday, Nov 6. In response to "Don't Break the Chain," 262 people attended Sunday School and the total collection was \$653.07, \$16 more than the previous record.

Sunday School: The Golden Circle Sunday School Class purchased a radio during January and sent it to Miss Effie Windham at the Baptist Home for the Aging in Winston-Salem.

From the pastor: "It has been stated that the Baptist Training Union is designed as a full-time

program of well-rounded training of every member of the church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, that individual Christians may grow in likeness unto the Lord and that churches may be strengthened." No other department of the church has this distinctive aim. The whole objective of participation in Training Union is to enable the church member, through training, to present himself "as one approved" in the light of Paul's teachings.

1961

The Griffin Bible Class hosted a Youth Fellowship Supper for young people ages 13-20 in an effort to encourage more young people to attend and take part in the Sunday evening worship service. 25- 30 young people attended.

Wednesday night Bible Study began in October.

1962

The pastor held a class for new members and for those interested in joining the church.

1963

Adults Baptist Training Union was disbanded in 1963 because of low attendance.

1964

Beginner Children's Sunday School class gave a tube of toothpaste to each child at the Christian Home as a Christmas project. The Willing Workers bought turkeys for the Christian Home.

The Pearle Johnson Class project made surgical bandages to be used by cancer patients in our county. They sent Christmas cards to missionaries in Taiwan.

Young Peoples Training Union and Junior Training Union met every Sunday night. Harold Boone led the Junior Training Union.

1965

Sunday School enrollment: 356, nine departments and 20 classes; average attendance: 186. Note at the beginning of the year, enrollment had been 317, and had increased by 39 people by the end of the year.

Baptist Training Union (BTU) – enrollment: 26, average attendance 18. Held a summer retreat at Nags Head.

Some of the ladies Sunday school classes' names are Willing Workers, Myrtle Brewer, Pearle Johnson, Golden Circle.

Sept. 25- Worship service devoted to Sunday School Promotion Day. Certificates given to those being promoted. Perfect attendance pins were presented.

Pastor Gilbert Mister presented a week long Bible Study in January, Monday –Friday in the evenings. In 1965, topic, "Studies in Deuteronomy," in 1966, topic, "John's Witness to Jesus."

1966

Baptist Training Union only active department was Young People with enrollment of 23, ages, 13-18

1968

Training Union organizational meeting Oct. 20 for all ages, from beginners to adults. 64 people attended. BTU continued to be successful.

1969

Sunday School enrollment: 337, nine departments and 21 classes; average attendance: 161.8.

Belk Vaughan was Sunday School director
Myrtle Brewer Sunday School class held a Christmas bazaar with proceeds to go toward purchase of a new stove for the church kitchen..

1970

Sunday School enrollment: 337, nine departments, 21 classes; average attendance 161.8

1971

A Family Sunday Assembly began with opening assembly held in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. every first Sunday, led by various classes. It was very well received, giving adults the opportunity to see children and young people.

Willing Workers Class planned a project to buy new hymnals to supplement those already on hand.

1974

Visitation Committee: each Sunday School class set up a schedule to visit prospects, inactive Sunday School and church members, then reported back to the Sunday School Class president and the committee chair.

Sunday School enrollment: 284; average Sunday School attendance 150, average worship attendance: 155

Marriage Enrichment week-end, "A Dozen Ways to Enrich Your Marriage" retreat by Dr. and Mrs. Roger Crook from Meredith College

1978

Sunday School Director- Mrs. Betty Wilson

Sunday School enrollment: 260, average attendance 150

1979

Sunday School enrollment: 256, average attendance 131

1984

Sunday School enrollment: 268, average attendance 135

1986

Sunday School – enrollment 244, with average attendance 116 per Sunday for the year
Outreach Director Talton Crutchfield and Sunday School Director attended a Sunday School Leadership Training seminar

1987

Sunday School enrollment: 244,

Sims Poindexter reported that high attendance ranged from 123 - 149, quarterly average attendance ranged from 117 - 126

Workshops for teachers and workers held at least twice in the year,

Eight attended a Sunday School conference at Caraway Conference Center in September.

1988

Sims Poindexter -Average attendance for year ranged from 118-125

Robert Stuart from the Baptist State Convention gave a presentation on the aims and goals in Sunday School.

Two new Sunday School classes began in October: Single/Singles Again, and Mid-Couples Class

1989

Sims Poindexter - Sunday school enrollment is 236 with average attendance of 121 per Sunday
First Sunday joint opening assembly was going well.

New Sunday School classes- Mid-Couples has 5 members. Singles class not successful.

1990

Sunday School enrollment: 267, average attendance 132

1990-91

Sunday School theme, "Breakthrough... Reach to Win."

1991

5 Fabulous Sundays, a Sunday School attendance campaign, was held September 29 – October 27, with the last Sunday, Victory Day, High Attendance Day. The goal was 200 in Sunday School that day.

1993

Sunday School enrollment: 254, average attendance 134

Sunday School Council met to plan and determine the goals for the work of the Sunday School for the coming year.

18 people attended the annual Sunday School Leadership Conference at Caraway. New theme for Sunday School: "Breakthrough – Serve to Win."

Sunday School department sponsored the Spring Fling in May which was a Womanless Wedding.

Sunday School leadership sponsored Fall Festival as alternative to Halloween. Children asked to dress as Biblical characters. Held at Griffin's Square Dance Barn. Youth assisted.

Sunday School Teacher Training workshop held in October which included how to develop lesson plans, ideas for creativity, and other aspects of teaching.

Each month a Sunday School classroom was selected as an Honor Room, recognizing its décor as inviting and conducive to study, and then reported in it "The Spiral."

Sunday School appreciation dinner held in September. Mrs. Martin Andrews, teacher of the Minnie Bell Sunday School Class, was honored at the appreciation dinner. The class dissolved because its current members were no longer physically able to attend. She joined the church in 1933.

Sunday School Outreach Directors organized Worship Greeters to stand outside the sanctuary each morning as part of the Sunday School's in-reach/ out-reach emphasis in making people feel welcome in the Lord's house.

December – plans announced to have a quarterly Sunday lunch where new-comers will be recognized and a little shared about the family.

Sunday School activated a Prayer Chain with each class appointing a Prayer Leader.

1994

The Myrtle Brewer Sunday School Class published the Pittsboro Baptist Church Cookbook Sunday School promotion day Sept. 25, with teachers and workers commissioned in the morning worship service.

New Sunday School class, The Inquirers, held its first meeting on October 2. Sims Poindexter and David Hamm were teachers.

October – annual Sunday School fall fellowship, Fall Ball, began with pig picking at the Griffin Square Dance Barn.

David Oyster, Discipleship Training Director for the Little River Association, led a 13 week study of *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby, which began in September.

1996

Sunday School Director: Lula Bryant used thermometer to track Sunday School attendance

1998

Lula Mae Bryant - spring quarter: High attendance -113, average 101

Outreach class started at the Laurels of Chatham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center with enrollment of 22.

1999

Average attendance ranged from 91 to 98

Started outreach program in adult classes to reach out to those who do not attend Sunday School.

Sunday School workshop held Sept 24-25: 40 present Friday night, 18 present Saturday morning,

Newsletter, *The Worker*, will be used instead of meetings for Sunday School teachers to stay current

2000

Sunday School – average attendance 92- 100+

Teacher appreciation night held with over 50 attending

In February, breakfast held for Sunday School workers

Workshop held on April 17

2001

Sims Poindexter - average attendance 100+ - 115

Sunday School contest winners announced at the April 29 church picnic held at the 902 picnic shelter after church.

Annual teacher appreciation banquet held November 11

If attendance reached 150, Nesbitt Dixon announced he would preach from the pulpit.

2002

Sunday School – Sims Poindexter

High quarterly attendance ranged from 135 -151 Average quarterly attendance ranged from 105 -115

No money had been requested for Sunday School in last three years due to financial issues, but money was needed to upgrade classrooms. Planned to look at needs of classroom facilities – cleaning, painting, supplies.

April 23 meeting of Sunday School teachers was to set goals (need to reach, reach high)

Myrtle Brewer Class moved into the Golden Circle classroom in September and ladies in Golden Circle merged with Myrtle Brewer Class.

Great need for a singles class.

New location needed for Inquirers Class so they will not have to meet in chapel with no chalkboard and to avoid using heating/ac.

Annual Teachers Appreciation Banquet 12/27/02

2003

Sunday School – Sims Poindexter -average attendance 119

Sunday School officers and teachers met January 27.

Sims will step down as director at church year's end.

2007

Mark Hubbard, Sunday School Director -average attendance 105

Month of January, there was prayer time during the Sunday School hour.

Nine men attended an elective men's class.

Needed teachers for College and Career, Youth, Young Married class.

2008

Mark Hubbard- average quarterly attendance ranged from 120 - 130

May 4 was high attendance Sunday

November 2 – Spiritual Emphasis Team presented an Adult Sunday School lesson designed for the capital campaign.

2013

Sunday School Director Susie Griffin announced the possibility of a new young couples class being formed. There was a vacant room available for its use.

2015

Reporting for Sunday School Director Jennifer Davis said there was a new Sunday School class for young couples.

2019

Cindy Haynes, representing the College and Career Sunday School Class reported that attendance was up and down, and that Dottie Griffin has been joining recently. Besides Cindy, the other teachers are Ken Haynes and Jennifer Davis.

2003 - present

In 2003, Pastor Harmon offered a Maturity Class for members who wanted to become more mature Christians. It later evolved into a series of classes offered to church members and prospective members. The series was first introduced by Rev. Tripp Harmon, but has also been facilitated by Barry Maxwell and Paul LoRusso.

The series includes: 101: New and Prospective Members Class; 201: Discovering Spiritual Maturity; 301 Discovering My Ministry.

Julie and Paul LoRusso facilitated two marriage retreat week-ends called, "The Art of Marriage" in 2018